2. टी० पी० शिवाकुमारन, सदस्य
3. आर० के० गुप्ता ,,
4. एस० राजगोपालन ,,
5. जे० एम० मिश्रा ,,
6. सुश्री रुचिरा मुखर्जी ,,
7. विनोद कुमार ,,

समिति ने अपनी रिपोर्ट 04.10.1995 को प्रस्तुत कर दी है।

(ग) समिति की सिफारिशें विचाराधीन हैं।

(घ) और (ङ) उक्त को देखते हुए लागू नहीं होता।

**Illegal Felling of Trees**

296. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the news appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 9th September, 1995 under the capition "N-E losing its green cover"; and

(b) If so, the effective steps taken or being taken to put an end to the illegal felling of trees in the North East region of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) The information is being collected from the states and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Hurriyat Conference Leader's propaganda against India**

297. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman of the All Party Hurriyat Conference Mirwaiz Moulvi Umar Farooq had a meeting with the Prime Minister of Pakistan at New York in October, 1995 and discussed the Kashmir issue with her;

(b) under what circumstances the Hurriyat leader visited U.S.A. and carried out anti-India activities on Kashmir issue;

(c) what are the details in this regard;

(d) what has been the attitude and stand taken for an against India on Kashmir issue by the delegates of foreign countries participating in NAM Conference; and

(e) to what extent India has been able to convince the foreign countries about its stand on Kashmir issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) According to reports, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq met Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in New York on October 20, 1995 and discussed issues relating to the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) and (c) Mirwaiz Umar Farooq holds a valid Indian passport and has travelled abroad on the same in the normal course. During his visit to the US, he attended the OIC meetings in New York and in Washington he, inter alia, met officials in the US State Department, including Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs, Ms. Robin Raphel. He also met Senator Hank Broan, Chairman of Near East and South Asia Subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Jesse Helms, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee and Democratic Congressman Jim Moran.

Government is keeping a watch on the activities of Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, while abroad and would take such action as may be deemed necessary and appropriate.

(d) and (e) There is widespread support of India's stand that all Indo-Pak issues should be resolved between the two countries through direct bilateral negotiations. Pakistan's efforts to include references to the Kashmir

issue in the final document adopted by the NAM Summit were not supported by other delegations.

**Degradation of Forests in the Country**

298. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the growing degradation of forests in the country.

(b) the steps taken to identify the factors responsible for the degradation and destruction of the forests in different States; and

(c) the details of the efforts made to preserve the forest wealth in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) It is not true that the degradation of forests is on the increase. On the contrary the State of Forest Report 1993 of the Forest Survey of India indicates an increase of 925 Sq. Kms compared with the 1991 assessment of forest in the country. This includes an overall increase in the dense forest cover by 568 Sq. Kms.

(b) the main reasons identified for the degradation of the forests in the country include illegal removal of fuelwood, foddar, timber and other non-timber forest produce due to increasing biotic pressures of growing human and cattle populations on forests. Quarrying, mining, laying of transmission lines and certain other developmental activities and encroachments also result in degradation of forests. Forest fires, floods, droughts and landslides are also important reasons of degradation of forests.

(c) The measures adopted to prevent degradation of the forests in the country are:

(1) Indian Forest Act, 1927 and Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 are in force to check forest and wildlife offences.

(2) There is a check exercised by the Govt of India on diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes under the provisions of Forest (Conversation) Act, 1980.

(3) Modern means of communications like wireless sets, fast speed vehicles etc are provided to protective staff. Flying squads patrol sensitive areas to check illicit removal of forest produce.

(4) Joint Forest Management has been introduced in the country to allow people's participation in the management of forest.

(5) Use of gobar gas and natural gas as alternatives to fuelwood is encouraged.

(6) Fuel efficient chulahs are introduced in the habitations surrounding forests.

(7) Massive afforestation programmes have been launched in different states to regenerate degraded forest areas.

(8) Wood substitutes and recycling of materials is encouraged to reduce pressure on forests.

(9) Awareness campaigns are organised to protect tree growth.

**इलाहाबाद में "इफको" द्वारा प्रदूषण**

299. श्री ईश दत्त यादव:
श्री कनकसिंह मोहनसिंह मंगरोला:

क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि इलाहाबाद के निकट स्थित "इफको" उर्वरक संयंत्र के कारण बढ़ते हुए पर्यावरणीय प्रदूषण से पेड़ मुरझा रहे हैं और फसलें प्रभावित हो रही हैं;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि उर्वरक संयंत्र द्वारा प्रदूषित जल के उपयोग के कारण हजारों व्यक्ति/बच्चे विकलांग होते जा रहे हैं;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने इस उर्वरक संयंत्र के कारण